keeping in touch

News and Notes from the
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December

GREETINGS GREETINGS GREETINGS

OCTOBER 1987
TOP 20 TITHES
(Received by November 10, 1987)

1.	MCC San Diego	San Diego, CA	$1607.42
2.	Church/Holy Spirit MCC	Ft Lauderdale, FL	1500.24
3.	MCC Dallas	Dallas, TX	1456.70
4.	MCC of the Resurrection	Houston, TX	1158.83
5.	MCC Washington DC	Washington, DC	1129.74
6.	MCC Long Beach	Long Beach, CA	1028.91
7.	MCC in the Valley	N. Hollywood, CA	1008.35
8.	King of Peace MCC	St Petersburg, FL	840.47
9.	MCC Seattle	Seattle, WA	645.22
10.	MCC of the Disciples	Washington, DC	606.83
11.	MCC Portland	Portland, OR	605.21
12.	Christ Chapel MCC	Santa Ana, CA	562.32
13.	St. Luke's MCC	Jacksonville, FL	558.89
14.	MCC Detroit	Detroit, MI	496.96
15.	Divine Redeemer MCC	Glendale, CA	470.78
16.	Spirit of Love MCC	Wichita, KS	459.05
17.	Church/Holy Spirit MCC	Des Moines, IA	422.36
18.	Casa de Cristo Evangelical MCC	Phoenix, AZ	383.96
19.	Joy MCC	Orlando, FL	370.64
20.	Holy Covenant MCC	Hinsdale, IL	353.10

OCTOBER 1987
TOP 20 PER CAPITA
(Received by November 10, 1987)

1.	Spirit of Love MCC	Wichita, KS	26.08
2.	Whitewater Valley MCC	Richmond, IN	25.21
3.	Sunrise MCC of the Hi Desert	Palmdale, CA	24.43
4.	Redeemer MCC of Flint	Flint, MI	24.25
5.	Good Samaritan MCC	Whittier, CA	22.13
6.	All Faith's MCC	San Diego, CA	22.06
7.	MCC of the Redwoods	Mill Valley, CA	21.96
8.	MCC of the Disciples	Washington, DC	20.16
9.	MCC of the Sierras	Reno, NV	19.97
10.	MCC Seattle	Seattle, WA	19.20
11.	MCC San Jose	San Jose, CA	17.81
12.	Christ Chapel MCC	Santa Ana, CA	17.05
13.	Shepherd of Love MCC	Hallandale, FL	17.00
14.	New Life MCC	Charlotte, NC	16.45
15.	MCC Mt. Vernon	Mt. Vernon, WA	16.42
16.	MCC Richmond	Richmond, VA	16.28
17.	MCC Washington DC	Washington, DC	16.05
18.	MCC Baltimore	Baltimore, MD	15.69
19.	MCC New Haven	New Haven, CT	15.59
20.	MCC Amarillo	Amarillo, TX	15.46

PRAISES

DALLAS, TX - On November 1, 1987, the Reverend Michael S. Piazza of Jacksonville, Florida, assumed Senior Pastor duties with Metropolitan Community Church of Dallas. Installation services for Rev. Piazza were held on November 8, 1987 at the Dallas Church. Congratulations, Michael and MCC Dallas!

PRAYERS

Please keep in your prayers, Rev. Ron Russell-Coons, pastor of MCC Seattle, who is home now from the hospital, however, he is still very ill. Prayers also for MCC Seattle through this time.

Please keep Rev. Elder James Sandmire, pastor of Golden Gate MCC of San Francisco, in your prayers as he is very ill and has recently been diagnosed with another cancer, Kaposi's Sarcoma. Prayers also for Golden Gate MCC through this time.

Please continue to keep in your prayers, Rev. Elder John Hose, who is still ill and is in the hospital.

NEW TASK FORCE FOR WORLD CHURCH EXTENSION

The Board of Elders, at the General Council meeting in Oct., 1987, appointed an Elders Task Force on World Church Extension. The duties of this Task Force include:

(1) Review all policies, procedures and structures presently affecting World Church Extension.
(2) Consult with experts in the fields of international law and missiology including cross-cultural mission.
(3) Receive input from local Churches and District on issues and suggestions related to World Church Extension.
(4) Recommend proposed revisions to policies, procedures and structures of World Church Extension.

The Board of Elders recommended that the General Council appoint the following people to this Task Force:

Chair: Rev. Elder Jean White
Members: Rev. Elder Don Eastman
Elder Larry Rodriguez
Rev. Delores Berry
Dr. Armando Hernandez
Mr. Clarke Friesen
Rev. Jane Carl

The first meeting of the Elders Task Force on WCE will be held in Mexico City from December 28 - January 2. The Task Force shall make its first report to the Board of Elders at its July 1988 meeting. Please keep this group in your prayers as they meet.

NEW CLERGY MANUALS

The newly revised Clergy Manual is now available for purchase through Church Services for $25.00. If you wish to order a Clergy Manual, please write to: Church Services, c/o UFMCC, 5300 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 304, Los Angeles, CA 90029; or call (213) 464-5100.

ADDITION FOR CHURCH MAILING LISTS

Local MCC congregations are urged to put Office of Ministry Resources on their local Church Mailing List and send their newletter and other important mailings to: The Rev. Jeffrey Pulling, Office of Ministry Resources, P.O. Box 14529, Hartford, CT 06114.

Please remove from your mailing list all Box 820, West Hartford, CT 06107 addresses for Jeff Pulling and Samaritan Extended Studies.

PASTORAL SEARCH BEGINS IN HAWAII

MCC Hawaii has used the last few months without a Pastor very well. We feel and act like a new creation. This delightful new spirit finds it's source in an unprecedented outpouring of commitment and involvement by each one of us. Attendance, love of God, membership, joy and tithes are all increasing. We find that we have many talents to share and more to discover.

We are looking for a Pastor whose talents and needs will mesh with ours. We want a partnership of nurturing. Our new pastor will find it easy to join us in our expression of ALOHA.

If you would like to explore the possibility of a church family relationship with us, please call or write for our application package to: MCC Hawaii, 350 Ward Ave., Suite 106 Honolulu, HI 96814; (808) 526-0594.

We thank all of our UFMCC Sisters and Brothers for your continued prayers.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR GIVING

As we celebrate the birth of our lover Jesus Christ let us remember those in our larger Fellowship family - People with AIDS/ARC; the Global Outreach of World Church Extension; and those in need who will be served by the new Benevolence fund - with our prayers, time, talents and our resources. Please remember that the Fellowship has ministries in these areas, in which you can give to help others: UFMCC Aids Ministry, Global Outreach for World Church Extension, and the new Benevolence Fund. Remember your Sisters and Brothers with love and support.

ATTENTION! ATTENTION! ATTENTION!

The 1988 CLERGY CONFERENCE is being moved from Hartford, CT to Los Angeles, CA, in order to coincide with the 20th Anniversary of the founding of our Denomination.

Dates of the Conference are: October 3-6, 1988 (Monday Evening through Thursday morning). The Anniversary Dinner will be on Thursday evening, October 6.

Look for more information in the first quarter of 1988!

UFMCC Clergy and Congregations are urged to include Clergy Conference in their 1988 Church Budget. A maximum of $400 per Clergy person should cover hotel, meals and Conference Registration.

LETTER FROM AN EX-OFFENDER

(to Rev. Ro Halford, pastor
Calif. Institute for Women)

I'm happy to say I was in the congregation when Don Eastman preached at MCC. After the service I asked him if he knew you and he said "yes, very well. She is now having services every Sunday at the Women's Prison". I was overjoyed to hear how your ministry has grown. Anyway, I had been thinking that I wanted to write and share with you some of the positive changes that have taken place in my life.

When I attended my first MCC service at CIW in 1985 I began to perceive there was another way of life for me as a gay woman. It's taken some hard mistakes and even harder decisions but I've finally made that concious decision to turn my will and my life over to the care of God, and to seek help for my drug and alcohol addiction.

I'm living in a women's residency, starting school in the Winter Semester, to get an AA degree in Human resources and drug and alcohol abuse. At that point I plan to go to work as a counselor and go for a Bachelors in Theology at Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley. Right now, while waiting for school to start I'm doing volunteer work with PWA's and taking my membership classes at MCC, also doing some service work for Gay AA & NA. I've been "in recovery" for almost 4 months and I won't say its been easy, but, its been very satisfying. For the first time in my life I really like who I am, and have a feeling of excitement and discovery about what life will bring, and what new wonders God will bring into my life tomorrow. I hope that in some way my experiences will help someone else, also I wanted you to know that those seeds you planted back in 1985 are growing. If it hadn't been for you and those other women from MCC I would probably be back in prison by now or dead. I really appreciate your commitment to the prison ministry and want to take this opportunity to thank you for my new life.